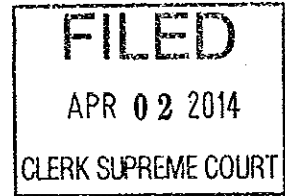


In the Supreme Court of Iowa

**In the Matter of Chapter 25
of the Iowa Court Rules and
Amendments to Expanded
News Media Coverage Rules**)
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Order



The Iowa Supreme Court adopts amendments to Chapter 25 of the Iowa Court Rules, Expanded News Media Coverage, as provided with this order. The court also strikes and replaces the three forms accompanying the chapter 25 rules, as provided with this order.

The Iowa Supreme Court first adopted Chapter 25 of the Iowa Court Rules for expanded media coverage in 1979. In the decades since the rules for expanded media coverage were approved, the courts and the media have collaborated to provide audio and visual media coverage to the public of thousands of judicial proceedings. The rules, however, do not specifically address new and emerging forms of technology such as smart phones, social media, and blogging.

The court created the Committee on Expanded Media Coverage (committee) to review Chapter 25 and propose changes. State court administration staff worked with the Iowa Freedom of Information Council to identify people from the media and the courts to serve on the committee. The committee membership was balanced by gender and geography and included a district judge, district associate judge, district court administrator, a county attorney, a public defender, a private practice attorney, and members of the news media representing newspapers, television, radio, photographers, multimedia editors, editors, regional media coordinators, and bloggers. Iowa Supreme Court Justice Bruce B. Zager chaired the committee.

The committee prepared a final report and proposed amendments for the Iowa Supreme Court. The court solicited public input on the proposed amendments and received helpful public comments. The committee and the court carefully reviewed the written public comments while considering final revisions to the proposed amendments.

The chapter 25 amendments provide a more consistent use of expanded news media coverage statewide and address current developments in news media-related technologies while continuing to allow for judicial discretion in individual cases. In addition, the amended rules continue to allow transparency of court processes while not disrupting court proceedings or interfering with individual rights.

The new forms the court adopts with this order are consistent with the revisions to the chapter 25 rules, are EDMS compliant and reflect the updated formatting of forms in the court rules, and are available on the Iowa Judicial Branch website in a fillable and savable format.

A summary of the amendments to chapter 25 is also provided with this order.

The amendments to Chapter 25 of the Iowa Court Rules and the new forms accompanying chapter 25 are effective May 1, 2014.

Dated this 2nd day of April 2014.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By Mark S. Cady
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice